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CIA calls Rewald's MU degree fake

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Honolulu, Hawaii — Ronald Rewald's law and business degrees from Marquette University are obvious fakes that the CIA didn't make and never would have made, a CIA documents expert testified Wednesday.

Mathew Kelly, chief of the graphics and authentication division, which makes and detects alien documents for the CIA, said his division had no record of Rewald's name.

He also said agency rules forbid issuing false academic, religious or journalistic credentials, and that if the CIA had made the degrees, no one could tell them from the real thing.

Rewald, on trial on 98 charges of perjury, fraud and tax evasion in connection with the 1983 collapse of his Honolulu investment firm, said the CIA ran the company as a cover for intelligence gathering and supplied him with the degrees.

Rewald's law degree from Marquette is phony on its face because it's printed in English, while Marquette's law degrees are printed in Latin, Kelly testified.

Rewald's 1966 bachelor of science degree in business administration is a fake made from someone else's real June 2, 1963, degree by a cut-and-paste photo technique and silk-screening, Kelly said.

Rewald would have had access to commercial photo studios to do part of it, and the silk-screening branch of his own Milwaukee sporting goods company, College Athletic Supply, could have done the rest, Kelly said.

In the bogus business administration degree, the forger printed Re-

wald's name in a different typeface than that used by Marquette, probably using an inexpensive set of artist's rub-on lettering, Kelly testified.

The first letter of Rewald's name is tipped slightly, something that often occurs when rub-on lettering is used carelessly, Kelly said.

The document also makes graduation day June 8, 1966, instead of the actual date of June 5, and uses signatures of MU officers who did not hold the same offices in 1966.

Although Father John P. Raynor is shown on Rewald's diploma as secretary, the position he held in 1963, he was president of the university in 1966, according to Marquette records.

The gold seal on Rewald's document was applied with spray paint, Kelly said, while the real thing has a heated gold stamp with embossing.

Kelly's testimony Wednesday followed that of former CIA agent John Kindschi, of Madison, Wis., who was chief of the CIA's Honolulu office when it used Rewald to provide commercial cover for some CIA personnel.

Kindschi, who joined Rewald's firm as a consultant after retiring from the CIA in 1980, insisted that he was unaware that Rewald's claims to investors were false.

Kindschi said he believed he had learned in CIA undercover work how to detect deception in others. But when he returned to the United States and worked in the CIA's overt domestic collections division, he said, he believed that he had dropped his guard.

"I was my old self, I guess, a man born and raised in the small farm town of Platteville, Wis., where no one locked their doors."

Kindschi said he and his mother had invested nearly \$300,000 with Rewald, and that they had lost most of it when the company collapsed.